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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, February 9, 2009, at 2 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD E. KAUFMAN, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Rev. Henry Wilkins IV, from St. James United Methodist Church in Pine Bluff, AR.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Good Morning. Let us pray.

Almighty God of love and mercy, God of power and grace, today we pray for the understanding to always seek Your wisdom and justice. It is through Your authority, righteously administered, that our leaders are enabled to govern through the laws enacted for our betterment.

So we pray for Your spirit, that these Members might be properly guided by Your divine charity and by an undaunted faithfulness. In these difficult times, may a hope that springs from Your divine well of blessings sustain and direct us, give counsel and courage to the leaders of this great body and its Members. May they always seek Your purpose and the well-being of this great people. Bless the leaders of this group of Senators. Bless the President of our great Nation. Grant now Your unfathomable protection that they may lead our country with the honesty of providence and the integrity of high ideals.

We ask all this in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable EDWARD E. KAUFMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 5, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD E. KAUFMAN, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KAUFMAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to go back to work immediately

on H.R. 1, the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Yesterday, we reached an agreement on a number of amendments, and that was certainly done. After we completed the voting last night, the managers of the bill moved a number of other pieces of legislation. Senator MCCAIN is going to offer the first amendment today. This will be the 14th amendment that is pending, and I think we need to dispose of all or part of these amendments before we start adding more amendments. We are happy that was the agreement made last night—for Senator MCCAIN to offer his amendment. It is an important amendment, one that needs to be debated, and we look forward to that.

However, I would tell Senators, I think we should dispose of some of these amendments before we start on any more after Senator MCCAIN. There will be plenty of time to do that. Everyone has agreed to time agreements on these amendments, is what I am told, and I am confident that is right.

STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let me say a few words about the pending legislation. I hear comments all the time that this is the greatest financial crisis since the Great Depression. I have asked myself: Well, is this worse than the Depression that started in 1928? The answer is no. That situation was worse than what we find ourselves in today. In that period of time, the stock market dropped 89 percent, with more than 25 percent of the population without work, and there were millions of

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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